THEA 322 Directing Shakespeare- Spring 2016
COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Matthew C. Logan
Office: Hamman Hall
Email: matthew.c.logan@gmail.com

Office Hrs: By appointment
Class Times: T/TH *2:30-3:45
Location: Room 106

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Students will explore a director's approach to directing one of Shakespeare's works. Each student will focus on scansion and translation of Shakespeare, developing concepts, blocking classical work, telling the story through movement, auditioning, working with actors in rehearsal. Students will complete a production book for their final scene, present a 10-15 minute scene for an audience and direct a rehearsal in front of class. They will also have a written logbook about their journey in class including a written defense of their scene.

METHODS:
Reading assignments, informal lecture and class discussion; group exercises; individual assignments; scene work; script analysis; attending & evaluating theatre productions; final 10-15 minute scene; director's presentation; production notebook; logbook.

REQUIRED TEXT:
Thinking Shakespeare by Barry Edelstein, ISBN: 9781411498723
Shakespeare Lexicon and Quotation Dictionary, Vol. 1 by Alexander Schmidt, ISBN: 9780486130750
Shakespeare Lexicon and Quotation Dictionary, Vol. 2 by Alexander Schmidt, ISBN:9780486227276
Richard 3 Arden Edition by William Shakespeare, ISBN: 978-1903436899
Pericles, Prince of Tyre Arden Edition by William Shakespeare, ISBN: 978-1903436851
A Midsummer Night's Dream Arden Edition by William Shakespeare, ISBN: 978-1903436608

RECOMMENDED READING:
Playing Shakespeare by John Barton

THEATRE ATTENDANCE:
You are required to see three stage productions this semester – two professional productions and one university production. You will write a play critique for both of the professional productions you attend.

Love & Information, Feb. 13-March 6 at Main Street Theatre – www.mainstreettheatre.com
Eurydice, February 12-February 13 at 8:00 PM Hamman Hall - Rice
A Midsummer Night's Dream, March 10-12 at 7:30 PM Hamman Hall - Actors From the London Stage – Rice
The Birds, April 8-24 at 8:00 PM and 2:30 PM (Sun) Classical Theatre Company – www.classicaltheatre.org

1st Critique due February 25
2nd Critique due March 15

EVALUATION
Daily Participation/Group Exercises 15%
Individual Exercises/Assignments 15%
Play Critiques 20%
Production Notebook & Text Analysis 20%
Final Scene & Class Logbook 30%
Numerical grades (0-100) will be given in each category and weighted according to the above percentages. The final grade will convert to a letter grade as follows:

94-100 A	77-79 C+
90-93 A-	74-76 C
87-89 B+	70-73 C-

84-86 B 67-69 D+
80-83 B- 64-66 D
0-63 F

Your exam responses, assignments and papers are covered by the Rice honor code.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is crucial. Each student is allowed 1 absence per semester. Each absence after the 1st will result in the student's grade being lowered by letter drop in the final grade. More than four absences will be grounds for a failing grade in the course. Missed coursework may be made up only at the discretion of the Instructor.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
If you have a documented disability that will impact your work in this class, please contact me to discuss your needs. Additionally, you will need to register with the Disability Support Services Office in the Allen Center.

Tentative Instructional Outline:

Week	Assignments Due	In Class
1 1/12		Go over Syllabus; Introduction to Directing. Class format; Key terms. The first day of rehearsal
1/14	DUE: Initial reading of Richard III DUE: Concept collage for Richard III	Developing an initial concept for a production. Types of directors. Feminisms, queer theory, etc.
2 1/19	DUE: Family Tree Character Collage Richard III - powerpoint	Casting a production. Important things to consider.
1/21	DUE: Chapter 1- Thinking Shakespeare "A Thought at a Time." DUE: Chapter 3 "That Would Be Scanned."	"Thoughts lead to speaking; speaking leads to emotion." Basic text analysis and how you might approach it in early rehearsals.
3 1/26	DUE: French Scene Breakdown Richard III	"Words, Words, Words" For Directing Actors – How to make rehearsals active while respecting the text.
1/28	Due: Chapter 12 "Suit the Action to the Word."	Physicality in Shakespeare; Getting actors grounded in the space; Period concerns.
4 2/2	DUE: Chapter 4 "Acting is Arguing."	Playing chess with the actors. "Tambourine" acting game.
2/4	Due: Chapter 5 "The Word Against the Word."	Exercises in Antithesis for Actors. Devil and angel in the ear.
5 2/9	Due: Chapter 6 "Different Voices"	Shakespeare Hip-Hop Analyzing and Finding the Changing of Height in Shakespeare.

Week	Assignments Due	In Class
2/11	Due: Pitch for your scene from: Richard III, A Midsummer Nights Dream, or Pericles.	Pitch your scene and concept.
6 2/16	Due: Chapter 7 "One Line at a Time." Due: Timeline for your final scene.	"Working with actors one word, and one line at a time in Shakespeare." Also, a discussion of how to do this work actively rather than at a table.
2/18	DUE: Detailed scene analysis.	Verse Nursing. Why scenes must be analyzed with such detail.
7 2/23	Due: What each character says about herself/himself in the play.	Discussion over concept in Shakespeare. "Choosing a concept based on full analysis of the show."
2/25	**DUE: Concept presentation for final scene** DUE: Play Critique 1	Concept Presentations
SPRING BREAK		
8 3/8	Due: Chapter 9 "Sweet Varied Notes" DUE: Storyboard or pre-blocking of Final Scene	AFTLS Workshop
3/10	DUE: Assigned from AFTLS	AFTLS Workshop
9 3/15	DUE: Directing Actors in class DUE: Play Critique 2	Evaluating Director's Technique in Rehearsal
3/17	DUE: Directing Actors in class	Evaluating Director's Technique in Rehearsal
10 3/22	DUE: Notes on Directing Scenes DUE: Chapter 11 "But How Do You Really Feel?"	Helping actors find interesting choices in the rehearsal process.
3/24	REHEARSE FINAL SCENES	
11 3/29	DUE: Chapter 13 "What the Other Guy is Thinking." REHEARSE FINAL SCENES	Exercises on helping actors listen to each other. Game Playing.
RECESS	REHEARSE FINAL SCENES	

Week	Assignments Due	In Class
12 4/5	REHEARSE FINAL SCENES	Strategy in Shakespeare
4/7	DUE: Chapter 14 "More Prosaic Concerns" REHEARSE FINAL SCENES	Work with Prose and actors
13 4/12	REHEARSE FINAL SCENES	Midsummer Final Scenes
4/14	REHEARSE FINAL SCENES	Richard III Final Scenes
14 4/19	REHEARSE FINAL SCENES	Pericles Final Scenes
4/21	DUE: Logbook with Written Critique/Argument of choices on your Role as Director	SUMMARY, INDIVIDUAL CRITIQUE